

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /057 W
-----083093 110946Z /10

R 101015Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5736
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4435

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, BG, IN
SUBJECT: FARAKKA; INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER

REF: DACCA 4361

1. IN MEETING AUGUST 10 WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSAID, I RAISED RECENTLY COMPLETED ROUND OF TALKS ON FARAKKA. POLCOUNSELOR ACCOMPANIED ME AND DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR SOUTH ASIA, HARUNUR RASHID, WHO WAS PART OF BANGLADESH DELEGATION, WAS ALSO PRESENT.

2. TABARAK CITED THREE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS WITH INDIA, TWO OF WHICH WERE "ACTIVE"CURRENTLY (THE THRID IS THE MARITIME BOUNDARY). ON THE BORDER ISSUE HE SAID THAT THINGS WERE DEVELOPING WELL. MORE THAN 900 HAD RETURNED FROM INDIA OF WHICH BDG WAS AWARE AND THERE WERE OTHERS WHO HAD "SLIPPED" IN..HE SAID THAT THERE WERE "VERY FEW" CASUALTIES
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IN THE TRANSFER. HE SEEMED TO THINK THAT THE BORDER QUESTION WAS LARGELY SETTLED OUTSIDE THE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT PROBLEM IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL AREA.

3. ON FARAKKA, BOTH TABARAK AND HARUN APPEARED TO INDICATE THAT THERE WAS LITTLE MOVEMENT DURING THE LATEST ROUND. MEHTA HAD BROUGHT BACK SOME ALTERED PROPOSALS FROM

NEW DELHI BUT THESE WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO BANGLADESH.

4. HARUN SAID THE "SUBSTANTIAL" ISSUES WERE ON QUANTITY OF WATER AND THE PERIOD WHICH WOULD BE FORMALLY DESCRIBED AS "LOW WATER". ON THE FORMER, WE DOD NOT IN THIS MEETING GET INTO THE SPLITTING OF CUSECS, BUT ON THE LATTER HARUM SAID THAT THE INDIANS WERE NOT FOLLOWING THE UN CONSENSUS WHICH DESIGNATED MID-NOVEMBER AS THE BEGINNING OF THE LOW PERIOD AND WERE INSISTING ON MID-JANUARY AS THE START. THIS TABARAK SAID WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO BANGLADESH.

5. ANOTHER HANGUP (AS WE HAVE REPORTED EARLIER) IS ON THE MACHINERY FOR ADJUDICATING DISPUTS. INDIA WANTS A BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT; BANGLADESH WISHES THRID PARTY INVOLVEMENT.

6. TABARAK ALSO HINTED THAT THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN (AS WE HAVE HEARD ELSEWHERE) SOME PROTOCOL PROBLEM WHEN HE (TABARAK) DID NOT HEAD THE BANGLADESHI GROUP WHILE MEHTA LED THE INDIANS. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, AN ADDITIONAL SUGGESTION OF A BIT OF ANNOYANCE ON TABARAK'S ONW PART THAT ABBAS WAS DESIGNATED BY BANGLADESH.

BERGESEN

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Message Attributes

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